

The habitation proper to one description of vegetable or animal families would be intolerable, and speedily fatal, to others. Where the extreme of incongruity does not exist, there are causes of unsuitableness, minor but slowly and surely effective. Even when, as in many parts of the two hemispheres, and on the contrary sides of the equator, there is apparently a similarity of climate; we find not an identity, but only an analogy, of animal and vegetable species.

It is confessedly difficult to fix with absolute precision the lines of demarcation for these independent domains of living organized nature. The general fact is established beyond the reach of doubt; but naturalists are waiting for a more complete acquaintance with the plants and animals of every part of the globe, before they deem the natural divisions finally determined. According to the degree of knowledge already attained, the following may be accepted as an approximation. A distinguished Christian physiologist and philosopher, Dr. Prichard, was the first to bring forwards correct views upon this interesting subject; and he proposes *seven* regions for the distribution of animals.* Mr. Swainson pleads for *five*, but upon a ground of analogy which he has assumed without proof, and which is contrary to impregnable truth.† Others make *eleven*.‡ With regard to the vegetable kingdom, some eminent naturalists have given their opinion in favour of ten for the old continents, and six for America:§ but the great philosophical botanists of Geneva, Messieurs de

* *Researches into the Physical History of Mankind*; Vol. I. pp. 68—97, third ed.

† *On the Geography and Classification of Animals*, pp. 14—18.

‡ Prof. Hitchcock, in the *American Biblical Repository*, Vol. XI. p. 17, 1838.

§ Von Schouw's *Fundam. Princip. of a Universal Geography of the Veget. Kingd.* German Transl. from the Danish, by the author, with an Atlas; Berlin, 1824.